



State of Vermont
Agency of Natural Resources
PERMIT AND LICENSE INFORMATION

SALVAGE YARDS

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PERMIT

Salvage yards, formerly known as “junkyards”, are permitted under the Vermont Salvage Yard Rule (September 2015). Regulation of salvage yards is necessary to assure protection of the natural environment and protection of the public health. ANR Permits are issued for a term of 1 year and are renewed annually. In order for an ANR Permit to be issued the salvage yard must have a current municipal “Certificate of Approved Location” and must meet ANR regulatory standards. Salvage yard permitting at the state and municipal levels involves the consideration of public health and environmental factors, siting, setbacks to property boundaries, roads and waters of the state, as well as consideration of the appropriateness of its location in the municipality in terms of zoning. All salvage yards are required to provide full year-round screening from view from public roads. Screening may be achieved by a fence, berm, vegetation or a combination of the three.

EXAMPLE OF REGULATED ACTIVITY

The outdoor storage of junk material, including motor vehicles, metal, appliances, vehicle crushing, shredding and processing operations.

CRITERIA FOR JURISDICTION

- Any place of outdoor storage or deposit of junk/junk motor vehicles whether or not in connection with a business,
- Any place of outdoor storage or deposit of four (4) or more unregistered motor vehicles for more than 90 days

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Prior to applying for an ANR Salvage Yard Permit, a Certificate of Approved Location must be obtained from the local municipality. This approval will require at least one public hearing. Application forms are available from the ANR Salvage Yard Program and the municipal office. Existing salvage yards failing to receive a Certificate of Approved Location **OR an** ANR Permit must cease operations and remove all junk and junk motor vehicles to a licensed facility or risk civil prosecution for uncertified operation of a salvage yard and substantial monetary penalties.

FEES

The municipal fee for application for a Certificate of Approved Location is \$25.00. The local legislative body may also assess fees for the costs of administration associated with the hearing including the costs of advertising the application hearing. The ANR fee for application for an ANR Permit ranges from \$300.00 to \$1250.00 annually.

APPLICATION TIME FRAME

Varies on a case by case basis. Factors include time required to obtain municipal approval, implementation of screening and operational requirements. Typically a few months to a year.

**ADMINISTERING
STATE AGENCY**

<p style="text-align: center;">Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation Salvage Yard Program</p> <p>CONTACT: Shawn Donovan Phone: 802-522-5683 Email: shawn.donovan@vermont.gov</p> <p>ADDRESS: 1 National Life Drive, Davis 1 Montpelier, VT 05620</p>
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**STATUTORY
AUTHORITY****24 V.S.A. § 2241 – 2283****APPLICABLE
RULES**

Statutory standards applicable to both municipal & state level salvage yard certification, and VT Salvage Yard Rule (September 2015). Additional municipal standards may apply as established by zoning bylaw, salvage yard ordinance or as determined by the municipality's legislative body as part of the application hearing process.

**APPEAL
PROCESS**

Appeals of decisions made at by the legislative body of the municipality wherein the salvage yard is located are to the State Environmental Court in the county wherein the municipality is located. Appeals of decisions of the Vermont ANR are to the State Environmental court in the county wherein the municipality is located, per 24 V.S.A. § 2281 and all proceedings shall be heard de novo. Any person or interested party, including ANR, may appeal to the Vermont Supreme Court from a judgment or ruling of the Superior Court.

**OTHER PERMITS
AND LICENSING**

Municipalities may impose more stringent salvage yard requirements.

A newly certified or substantially altered legally existing salvage yard may also need a Land Use Permit ([Act 250](#)) from the District Environmental Commission holding jurisdiction. If vehicle parts or other salvage are to be sold on a regular basis, applicant should contact the Vermont Department of Taxes. If sale of vehicles is contemplated, applicant should contact the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
REGULATIONS**

Salvage yards, like many other businesses, must comply with all applicable environmental regulations which may apply in addition to the salvage yard regulations. These regulations most commonly include storm water management regulations [\[#6.4\]](#), hazardous waste management regulations [\[#36\]](#), solid waste regulations [\[#39\]](#), wastewater and drinking water regulations, water quality and wetland regulations [\[#29\]](#), and air pollution control regulations [\[#14.\]](#). Federal EPA laws and regulation may also apply.

Environmental regulations related to salvage yards may be found on the VT Department of Environmental Conservation's Small Business Compliance Assistance Program home page:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ead/sbcap/index.htm>